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REPORT

ON

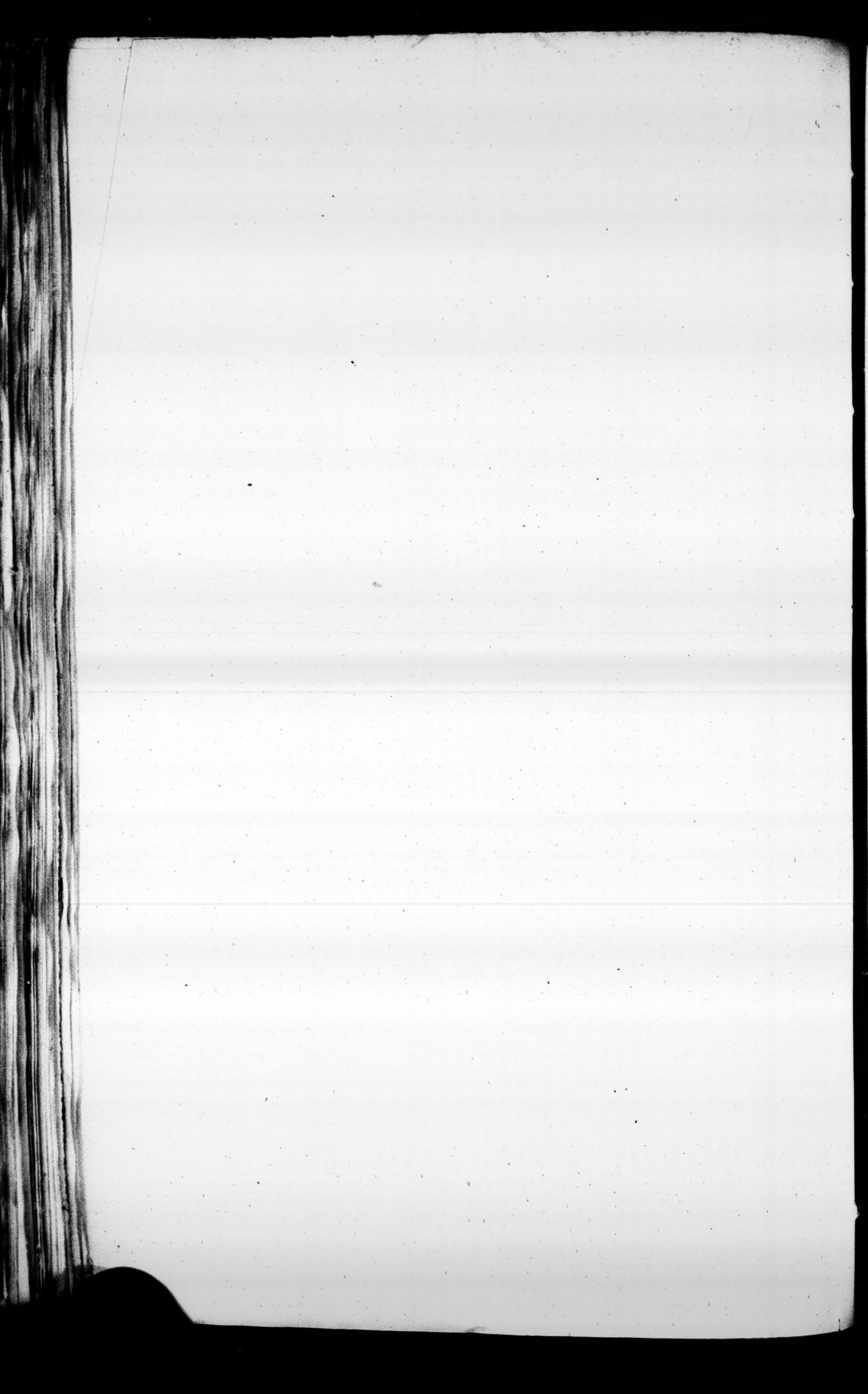
NATIVE PAPERS IN BENGAL

FOR THE

Week ending the 30th August 1902.

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II.—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

The *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st August says that as the *Durga Puja* is approaching theft is, as usual, increasing in Calcutta. Thefts were committed on two successive nights, the 17th and 18th July last, in a house in Nanda Kumar Chaudhuri's 2nd Lane. It is the shame of the Calcutta Police that the moonlit night, the light in the street lamps, and the presence of beat-constables fail to check the activity of the dauntless thieves. The attention of the new Commissioner of Police is drawn to the matter.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 21st, 1902.

2. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 21st August complains that the steamer service which Messrs. M. David and Company are plying between Induripol and Cox's Bazar in the Chittagong district, through the village khals, is not only doing damage to the nets of fishermen, for which suits will shortly be brought in the law courts, but bids fair to drive away the fish from the khals, and thereby put the residents to the want of food. The attention of the authorities is called to the subject.

JYOTI,
Aug. 21st, 1902.

3. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 20th August has the following notes about Mr. Carey, the District Magistrate of Murshidabad:—

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Aug. 20th, 1902.

(1) A few days ago the *Bengalee* newspaper published a petition which the apprentices in the Murshidabad Collectorate had submitted to the Divisional Commissioner against Mr. Carey's conduct towards them in the matter of their appointment. An enquiry is being made as to how the *Bengalee* came by the petition. We know many other things about this matter, but we are afraid of publishing them, lest their publication should prejudice the interests of the poor apprentices.

(2) In re-examining the papers of the Revenue Agent examination, at first examined by Babu Jadu Nath Ghosh, the Subordinate Judge, and Babu Sarat Chandra Chatterji, the Deputy Collector of Murshidabad, Mr. Carey has so largely altered the marks given by them as to lead them to think it is they themselves who have been subjected to an examination. If the Magistrate had managed this matter more tactfully, he would not have given so much pain to the learned examiners.

(3) Sometime ago Mr. Carey ordered the local police simply to keep an eye on one Sib Narayan Sarma who had instituted a suit as a pauper. But the Sub-Inspector of the Manulla Bazar thana had him arrested and sent to the Magistrate, who, however, released him. Sib Narayan brought a case against the man who arrested him. This man was acquitted on the ground that he had acted in good faith. But should not the man who ordered the arrest be punished? "Somebody must be punished for the day's work." But Mr. Carey has done nothing in the matter.

4. The *Pallivasi* [Kalna] of the 20th August says that the abolition of the Additional Munsif's Court in Kalna, in the Burdwan district, which has been already decided upon, will prove a source of great inconvenience to suitors in Kalna, and will throw an amount of work on the only permanent Munsif, which he will scarcely be able to cope with. Even with an additional Munsif stationed at the place, the worthy permanent Munsif has had to hold his cutcherry till after nightfall. What will he do when he will have to work singlehanded? The abolition of the additional Court will simply create a block in the business of the Court.

PALLIVASI,
Aug. 20th, 1902.

5. The *Basumatî* [Calcutta] of the 21st August makes the following complaints against Mr. Delevingne, Magistrate and Collector of Jessorâ:—

BASUMATI,
Aug. 21st, 1902.

(1) Mr. Delevingne has prohibited the public from coming to the verandah of the Collectorate cutcherry, and, in order to carry out his order, he has stationed a constable on the verandah. Anybody who

comes to the verandah in ignorance of the Magistrate's order is taken into custody. The Manager of the journal *Hindu Patrika* was ill-treated in this way the other day.

(2) Mr. Delevingne fined the District Board Overseer fifty rupees because a cow was one day found tethered on a public street.

(3) Mr. Delevingne does not like to hear original cases, but wants only to hear appeals. He has no fixed time for holding his Court. Sometimes he orders pleaders to come to his private quarters where he promises to hold his Court; but often keeps the pleaders waiting there for a time, and then postpones their cases to some other day.

Mr. Delevingne is certainly not a schoolboy that he should need the school-master's rod to correct him. He is of age, and he should be himself able to correct his vagaries.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 22nd, 1902.

6. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd August has received serious complaints against a Sub-Registrar in the Khulna district. The complainants say that the Sub-Registrar has started a money-lending business, and has employed in his office a brother of his, who is suffering from a bad disease. It is a serious offence for a Government servant to carry on a money-lending business, and the Sub-Registrar in question was once warned from the Sadar; but he is still indirectly carrying it on. Other complaints besides the above have also been heard against him.

CHARU MIHIR,
Aug. 19th, 1902.

7. The *Charu Mihir* [Mymensingh] of the 19th August writes as follows:—

Lord Curzon's educational policy. The Universities Commission has declared that the number of men receiving high education in India should decrease, and in proposing to increase college fees to gain that object, it has hit the right nail on the head. It is unworthy of the British Government to try to repress India by taking advantage of her poverty. We do not know whether Lord Curzon had a direct hand in the framing of the report of the Commission; but we are certain that it was to be in a line with His Excellency's wish.

It is in a comparatively young age that Lord Curzon has been placed in a very high and responsible position, and the future holds up a bright prospect before him. No wonder, therefore, that the broad educational policy of Macaulay and others seems doomed in his hand. This is the time to test Lord Curzon's friendliness towards India. The educational policy, which His Excellency is going to introduce into the Indian Universities, will affect not only Indians, but Englishmen also, and its evil effects will begin to assume fearful dimensions before long.

SRI SRI VISHNU
PRIYA-O-
ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
Aug. 20th, 1902.

8. The *Sri Sri Vishnu Priya-o-Ananda Bazar Patrika* [Calcutta] of the 20th August writes as follows:—

What the Universities Commission did not do.

As directed by the Government, the Universities Commission took the evidence of many men of light and leading in the country, men who were thought to be able to throw light on the dark and difficult question of reforming the system of education which now obtains in India. But it is a matter of great wonder and regret that none of the witnesses thus examined can be fairly said to have represented the class which is most directly and closely interested in the question, viz., the parents and guardians of Indian students. Of the 39 witnesses examined in Bengal, 23 were Europeans and 16 Bengalis. Of the 16 Bengalis, 12 were Hindus and 4 Musalmans; and of the 12 Hindus, 3 were officials, 7 interested in the question on account of the colleges which they represented, and the remaining two were bachelors. It is thus seen that none of the Hindu witnesses represented the interests of the father or guardian, the fate of whose children or wards is controlled and determined by school or college, and yet it is the parent or the guardian who could have most clearly proved many of the evils of the present system of education. It is they who could have satisfactorily shown how the present system of education ruins the health of students, and not unoften carries them off too early. The Commission travelled from one end of India to another, but it got no glimpse of the truth that the

effect of the current system of education on many Indian students is really deplorable. The brilliant students, who once won their laurels in the Indian Universities, but have now entered the world, could also have borne testimony to the truth. Any one of them, if examined by the Commission, would have plainly said that in his childhood he had been healthy, strong and intelligent, but that the strain of committing books to memory and passing a score of examinations made a physical and mental wreck of him, and that whatever learning he possessed was acquired not in the University but after leaving it, and that he had left in the college and the examination hall all the parts with which he was born. He is old before thirty. He cannot run a yard, and has to rest ten times if he has to walk a mile. He possesses keen intelligence, but he has lost the power of applying his mind to serious matters. Two or three hundred years ago Bengal could boast of men, whose intellectual achievements astonished the world, but a century of English education has not been able to produce a single Bengali student, whose name is uttered with respect and admiration at home and abroad.

We thus see that the Universities Commission has done no good to us. If its report had contained only one remark instead of many, and if that one had been to the purpose that, besides giving no substantial education, the present system weakens the health and mind of students, it would have been the parent of at least some measure of good. But those from whose evidence such a conclusion could have been arrived at were not called to speak before the Commission.

The Commission directed almost the whole of its attention to the question of giving a sound English education to Indian students. But where lies the use of this education, if in the attempt to receive it the student loses his health for life or meets with untimely death? What is to be wondered at is that this serious point escaped the notice of even Mr. Justice Banerji. His Lordship was anxious lest high education should be suppressed in India. But who would receive this education if the University examinations strangled the higher classes of Hindus, viz., the Brahmans, the Kayasthas and the Vaidyas, to death?

The Commission should have proposed that a system of education should be introduced under which the higher and respectable classes of Indians would receive good education without prejudice to their life and health. But, as a matter of fact, the proposals, which it has made will, if adopted, bring about the very opposite results. By proposing to increase the number of text-books for the Entrance examination, it has, in a manner, proposed to increase cram, as the students, who now commit one text-book to memory, will now have to commit ten. Again, the Commission has proposed to make examinations more difficult and raise the minimum pass-mark in Literature in the Entrance examination. If this proposal is adopted, three-fourths of the students, who would otherwise have passed the Entrance examination, will fail. The doors of the college will be closed against them, and they will consequently be ruined for life. On the other hand, those who will be able to enter the college will lose half their vitality in passing the difficult higher examinations made still more difficult, so that if the present generation of students dies at the age of 50, the next generation will seldom pass the age of 40.

9. A correspondent writes to the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st

Drunken revelry in a school-house in Midnapore town.

August that a few days ago some educated inhabitants of Midnapore town entertained the local raja, zamindars, pleaders, mukhtars, doctors, &c.,

in a local school house situated in the midst of a respectable quarter. Wine flowed freely, while the dances, songs and cries of hired prostitutes turned the place into a veritable pandemonium. It is in the school-house that young boys learn the first principles of morality. The sanctity of the school-house should therefore be religiously guarded against vice and immorality. The authorities in Midnapore should not have allowed such drunken revelry to be held in a school-house. They should take some vigorous steps in this connection.

10. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August writes as follows:—

The recommendations of the Universities Commission.

We cannot support the recommendation of the Universities Commission that members of the Senate should be appointed for five years. As most

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 21st, 1902.

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 23rd, 1902.

members of the Senate would, according to another recommendation, be nominated members, their appointment for a short period would deprive them of all independence, because those who hope for re-appointment would on no account dare to go against the Government or its officials.

If the Senate is constituted according to the recommendations of the Commission, there will be in it an overwhelming majority of official members, it will lose its independence, and the Universities will come completely under the control of the Government. The Universities exist for the spread of education among the people, and the Senate is the soul of a University. It is, therefore, necessary that the Senate should be so constituted as to include a very large representation of the general public. Junior Civilians and officials holding high position may be educated, and even learned men possessed of great intelligence; but there is no denying that most of them are ignorant of the character, wants and condition of the native population. They will, therefore, be quite unfit to satisfactorily regulate the education of the natives, in spite of their wish to do so. A reduction in the number of members will do good, but the Senate should contain a majority of native and elected members. Otherwise much harm will be done to the cause of higher education.

We cannot support the unreasonable proposal of the Commission to deprive the Senate of all voice in the disaffiliation of any school or college. We fail to understand why, if the Syndicate does something wrong, the Senate should not have power to judge of its action. Again, there is no guarantee that what is done by the Director of Public Instruction and a majority of the Syndicate will never be wrong. It will not certainly be right to leave the private colleges, which have done the country so much service, to the tender mercies of a handful of men by placing them under the complete control of the Director of Public Instruction and the Syndicate. Some people think this a good recommendation. They say that if the Syndicate makes a mistake, it will be corrected by the Government, with whom shall rest the final power of disaffiliation. But this argument has been very well met by Babu Guru Das Banerji, who says that as Government will receive all its information regarding an institution, which it is proposed to disaffiliate, from the Syndicate and from its Vice-Chairman, the Director of Public Instruction, and as the Syndicate will, in many cases, derive all its information from the same official, a mistake made by the Director of Public Instruction, can be corrected neither by the Syndicate nor by the Government.

If the private colleges are deprived of their independence, they will become worthless institutions. The rules which now regulate those colleges are enough for them; it would not be wise to make stricter rules for them.

11. The *Ahsan-ul-Akhbar* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August has the following:—

The Universities Commission.

The recommendations of the Universities Commission have taken a quite different line from what had been indicated by Lord Curzon in his speeches on the subject of University education in India. The impression which His Excellency's speeches conveys is that education must be made solid, and the cramming system must be done away with altogether. But the sole object of the Commission seems to be to limit the spread of high education in the country. While the Commission has said many things, it has said nothing about the necessity of commercial and technical education, in the absence of which the commerce and trade of India are going down and down. The Commission's dead silence on the point indicates that the Government has given it no power to deal with that question. But it must be borne in mind that the Indians are feeling the necessity of technical and commercial education.

12. The *Dacca Gazette* [Dacca] of the 25th August publishes the following in its English columns:—

The recommendations of the Universities Commission.

There is but one principle which underlies all the recommendations made by the Universities Commission. They insist that the education should be deep instead of being cheap and shallow as now. It is not clear from the report whether they consider cheapness as an evil by itself, or only so far as it stands in the way of sound education. But, we believe, they object to it on the latter ground. This does not, however, appear to us to be at all sound. In the first place,

AHSAN-UL-AKHBAR,
Aug. 23rd, 1902.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Aug. 25th, 1902.

cheapness need not necessarily lead to shallowness, and secondly, even if it did, the interests of many should not be sacrificed for the benefit of a few. Private colleges are, no doubt, capable of improvement, but to hamper them with conditions which will virtually lead to their extinction is proposing a remedy worse than the malady. All that need be done is to require them to maintain a certain standard of efficiency and make sure by close inspection that they are keeping up to the mark. The rest will follow as a matter of course. They sprang up in obedience to the law of demand and supply. They were not forced upon the country. The country forced them into existence ; and to kill them outright would be to kill the intellectual life of the nation. Let them alone—only see that they strive after what you aim. The Government can and ought to be of assistance to private enterprise in this direction. The Government colleges benefit only a few. Have the Government no duty towards the rest ? Who constitute the vast majority ? Can they not at all principal centres of education provide for libraries and laboratories for the use of private colleges ? It is the people's money that maintains the Government educational institutions. Is it just to shut them out ? Have they not the right to demand that a fair portion should be spent for their benefit ? The provision for primary education mainly benefits the lower strata of the society. The growing middle-class who form the backbone have been cruelly neglected and left to work out their own salvation. Our private institutions are the natural outcome of this policy of the Government. Are the Government to step in there as well ?

13. The *Pratibasi* [Calcutta] of the 25th August writes as follows :—

The number of examiners at the B. L. examination of the Calcutta University has this year been raised from 8 to 16. Does this mean that

B. L. Examiners of the Calcutta University. the present Syndicate is making a frantic use of the power which is doomed under the report of the Universities Commission, or does it mean a greater effort at efficiency ? However that may be, there are on the list of the examiners names of pleaders who never get a good case, and those who having failed to earn a livelihood in the profession of law have taken up the professional line. The legal knowledge of these people is gained purely from books, and cram is therefore sure to be favoured by them. Will those who are crying themselves hoarse over the recommendations of the Universities Commission support even this action of the existing Syndicate ?

14. The same paper contains the following in English :—

We had been to the Town Hall meeting convened last Friday evening for the purpose of protesting against the report of the Universities Commission. But what we saw and heard at the

The Town Hall meeting to consider the Universities Commission's Report. meeting unfortunately differs from the experience of other newspaper writers. It might be prudent to overlook the failings of our countrymen for averting what is alleged to be a great danger, but it is not journalistic honesty to keep back from the public the real state of affairs. However, we can only record our own impressions. The hall was overcrowded mostly with students, who caused great disturbance from time to time. We wish the leading men of our country could meet together privately and record their opinion for the information of the tribunal with whom rests the acceptance or rejection of the recommendations of the Commission. Most of the speakers forgot that they were not there to command the applause of a listening Senate, but to secure a modification of the recommendations of the Commission by alluding to their objectionable features in a calm, dispassionate and respectful manner. One who watched the behaviour of the audience may be pardoned the conclusion that an education which only breeds respect for sensational and irrelevant talk had better be withheld.

There are, of course, recommendations of the Commission for the modification of which we should pray, but only by referring to their uselessness or mischievous character. We are at one with the Commission when it says that high education should only be open to the ardent seekers, and that some test should be imposed for selecting those who take to education for bringing about the perfection of their nature ; we congratulate the Commission upon its endeavour to raise the standard of high education ; we have watched the

PRATIBASI,
Aug. 25th, 1902.

PRATIBASI,

reckless abuse of power which has provoked this determination to shift the control of business to other hands, but yet we must say that the recommendations about the constitution of the governing bodies are disappointing in the extreme. The University suffers from no administrative deficiency. We do not want anybody to maintain peace and order at the meetings of the Senate or the Syndicate. Here much talking also is not an offence but a necessity, so that an official Vice-Chairman or a Civilian Rector cannot be expected to do much good. We want learned men, conscientious men, truth-loving men, men who know how to teach and what to teach, men who are ready to spend some time for thinking out what should be done for the advancement of learning, men who, by their conduct and character, can influence others, and not sound statesmen and administrators, diplomats and politicians. The eternal quarrel between the Government and the people should not be suffered to disturb the scholarly calm and serenity that should belong to a University. She is to serve neither the State nor the people, so that the question is not to bring about the preponderance of official or the popular element. She wants the purifying influence of *savants* and truthseekers, no matter whether they come from the officials or the people. The appointment of the Director of Public Instruction as the Vice-Chairman of the Syndicate or the Lieutenant-Governor of the Province as the Rector of the University cannot be taken to be a sufficient safeguard against the recurrence of evils for which we want a remedy, so that we may justly contend against the unnecessary officialization of the University. Then, again, the law classes of our private colleges do not do much good to the students, but, on the contrary, teach them to be unscrupulous so early in their life by tolerating a sort of licensed laxity in the matter of attendance. Law colleges with efficient teaching staff, where students will have to attend lectures for hours together, may bring about a better state of things. But why one law college under official control? If the present law classes give place to some respectable law colleges for the study of Law, what is the harm? What objection? The recommendation for raising the scale of fees, though conceived, we believe, in the best spirit, may be done away with as superfluous for the imposition of conditions calculated to ensure efficiency of teaching and maintain discipline and a healthy moral tone amongst students, will serve the purpose.

The Government colleges can no longer be looked upon as model institutions inasmuch as the best men have all retired and not been replaced by worthy successors, and as those who are competent to teach are being shunted off to the inspecting line. These and kindred points could be respectfully urged. But the agitators mistook their vocation. The President set up a defence for the University against which serious charges have unquestionably been established and had some good words even for "cram" and "little learning." We wish we had sufficient space at our command to notice his speech. He makes some mistakes about facts, puts together unconnected premises and draws conclusions hardly warranted by them. How could he think for a moment that mere learning by rote without assimilation finds favour with any man, not to speak of Pundits and scholars? As to his advocacy of little learning, we only point out that Dickens might prefer little learning to gross ignorance, but he would not certainly allow it any place in a scheme of high education. Besides, the poet says: "Better not to be than not to be noble." As to the danger of little learning, we beg to remind the President that it is the sin of emptiness that marred the proceedings of that meeting. The agitators—some fell to fighting freedom's battles; some to singing funeral songs; some repented of their past folly; some with the penetrating sight of the seer began to descry motives; some were carried away by an excess of sympathy for the poorer middle-classes, who, they said, are done for; and thus the grand Town Hall meeting came to an end, not achieving but only learning to labour and to wait.

(e)—Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

KHULNA,
Aug. 21st, 1902.

15. The *Khulna* [Khulna] of the 21st August complains that the only two tanks in the Bagerhat subdivision of the Khulna district, namely, the Thakurdighi and the Ghoradighi, which supplied pure drinking-water

Bad condition of two tanks in the Khulna district.

to the residents of the subdivision, have been surrounded by and overgrown with jungle, and are losing their purity in consequence of the decomposition of weeds, leaves of trees, &c., in their water. The jungle surrounding the tanks also gives shelter to wild animals. Considering the need of good water and the insufficiency of its supply, the authorities should direct their attention to these two tanks.

16. The same paper complains that owing to defects in its drains many portions of the Khulna town remain submerged for a long time—sometimes for days—after a heavy shower of rain. Attention should be

Municipal complaints from Khulna. particularly drawn to the place north of the junction of the Central Road with the Zig-zag Lane, as well as to the passage between the lodgings of the Subordinate Judge and of Babu Sarada Charan Bhattacharyya, mukhtar.

Very small showers make the Jessore Road muddy. No one can think that rubbish is ever used in its repair. The contractor is more at fault than the Municipality. But why does the Municipality employ worthless or penniless contractors?

17. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 21st August asks the Chittagong authorities to consider how far, in the face of the Complaints against the Chittagong Port authorities.

High Court ruling that a Judge having an interest in a suit is disqualified from trying it, and considering that the Divisional Commissioner was unwilling to vest the Port Officers of Chittagong with the power to themselves try all breaches of the port rules, it was right to vest those officers with the power in question. There is absolutely no necessity for continuing such an anomaly, by which the accuser himself sits as the Judge, because there are a sufficient number of Deputy Magistrates in Chittagong, one of whom might be appointed as the Marine Magistrate.

The High Court ruled in a case that unlicensed boats, &c., which occasionally came with goods or passengers to the port of Chittagong, but did not regularly ply within its limits for hire, committed no breach of the port rule requiring every boat which so plied to take out a license from the Port Commissioners. But, in spite of this ruling, the Port authorities are prosecuting and fining unlicensed boatmen, who occasionally come to the port with goods or passengers. The higher authorities should put a check upon this high-handed conduct of the Port Officers of Chittagong.

18. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd August has the following:—

Increase of child mortality in Calcutta. It is needless to speak about the improvement in the health of Calcutta and the happiness of its residents under the new municipal law. But it

is a wonder that even the vital statistics for Calcutta published in the Sanitary Commissioner's report for last year have failed to bring the authorities to their senses. The statistics show that of the children who were born in Calcutta last year, nearly half died within a year. In the whole province, however, although it contains very few Municipalities so advanced as the Municipality of Calcutta, the death-rate among children was not higher than 20 per cent. How is it then possible for one to say that the health of Calcutta is improving under the new regime? The Sanitary authorities have failed to assign any reason for this heavy increase in child mortality in Calcutta. The *Englishman* newspaper has attempted to explain it away in a most improper manner. It says that the heavy child mortality in the metropolis, where the best medical aid is always available, is due to the native's liking for dwelling-places which are full of filth and dirt. According to that paper a native however educated he may be, will never be able to shake off his unclean habits. But the *Englishman* may be asked, if the natives have contracted unclean habits only since the passing of the new Municipal Act. If not, why was not child mortality as heavy in Calcutta before as it is now?

Increase of population is also assigned by the *Englishman* as one of the causes of the evil complained of. It is true the health of a town depends in a great measure upon the density of its population. But is Calcutta a more densely populated city than London? If not, why is the death-rate higher in Calcutta than in London?

KHULNA,
Aug. 21st, 1902.

JYOTI,
Aug. 21st, 1902.

HITAVADI,
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The truth is that the increase of mortality in Calcutta is due entirely to the neglect of its duties by the Health Department of the Calcutta Municipality. But the advocates of the new law are unwilling to admit this and have, therefore, had to coin strange explanations of the deterioration visible in the health of the metropolis.

BANKURA DARPAH.
Aug. 23rd, 1902.

19. The *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd August complains that in the rains the surplus water of the principal drain in Bankura town, which passes by the side of Poddar Pukur, a tank, is carried into the tank and pollutes its water, which is used for drinking purpose by the neighbouring people. The Sanitary Commissioner or his Deputy should make a local enquiry and put a stop to this practice. The attention of the Vice-Chairman of the Bankura Municipality, who probably knows nothing of the matter, is drawn to it.

NIHAR,
Aug. 26th, 1902.

20. The *Nihar* [Contai] of the 26th August draws attention to the bad condition of the tank called Nanda Kumar, situated south of Bhagawanpur near Contai. The tank supplied water to the residents of a large number of villages, but now its water has become too bad to be drunk. Steps ought to be taken to improve its water.

To prevent fouling and stagnation, a *mohana* ought to be excavated on the south side of the tank. People should not be allowed to fish in the tank, as they often foul it by the use of things like decomposed liquor, boiled rice, and the entrails of goats. The income which is derived by the sale of fishing tickets may be equally derived by catching the fish with nets once or twice a year and selling them. People should not be allowed to ease themselves on the bank.

(f)—*Questions affecting the land.*

PRATINIDHI,
Aug. 23rd, 1902.

The khas mahal tenants of Chandpur in the Tippera district.

21. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 23rd August publishes the following in English:—

We publish below the letter of our Chandpur correspondent and draw the attention of our Collector, Mr. Scroope, to hold an inquiry into the facts stated in the letter. It is a fortunate thing that we have got such a sympathetic and conscientious Collector. Mr. Scroope within a very short time has won the heart of the people and made a name as a kind-hearted ruler, ever ready to protect the interest of the poor. We have not the least doubt that the poverty of the poor tenants would receive due attention of Mr. Scroope:—

As is elsewhere, so in the Government khas mahals of this quarter, the people have been very much hard pressed this year; nay, they fare even worse. Owing to the abnormal rainfall, crops have greatly suffered, and the people in these tracts, mainly as they depend upon the crops for their support, find it very hard to make both ends meet. A respectable friend of mine had the ill-luck to come across, the other day, a fellow—a khas mahal tenant who went about offering a plate and a cup for sale to the shop-keepers of the Bhairabi Bazar,—and on enquiry came to know that the poor man, the head of a family of 7 or 8 members, had not had any means for the preceding two days. Driven as the khas mahal tenants are to such a miserable plight, it has afforded a good opportunity to the money-lenders, who have been doing a roaring business this year. The people are obliged to borrow money at the fabulous rate of 50 or even 60 per cent., and are thus driven into the clutches of the cruel money-lenders, never to be liberated. But what fills to the brim the cup of misery of these poor people is the realization of the Government rent, which is very relentlessly conducted, without any regard to the condition of the tenants. No distinction is made, it seems, between a year of prosperity and one of adversity. The *Tahsildar*, true to the word of the law and over-zealous to please his superiors, performs duties in a way which does not bespeak a kind heart. The tenants are required to pay on demand; failing which, the little they have—their cooking utensils and all—are put up to auction, and the dues are realized. This is hardship to a degree, especially in a year of adversity like the present one. We therefore earnestly pray that our worthy Magistrate will be good enough to enquire into the condition of khas mahal raiyats of this

quarter, and direct the *Tahsildar* to be a little relenting in the discharge of his duties.

(g)—*Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.*

22. The *Pratinidhi* [Comilla] of the 16th August contains the following in English:—

A complaint against the Assam-Bengal Railway.

There is a general complaint that fresh fruits and vegetables are often stolen on the Assam-Bengal Railway. We know by practical experience that the theft of fruits and vegetables has become a rule instead of an exception. We thought that the authorities of the Railway Company, by the exercise of their proper control over the railway underlings, had put a stop to this scandalous practice, but we are surprised to read the letter of our Sitakunda correspondent. Our correspondent says that a gentleman from Sitakunda ordered some mangoes from Darbhanga; they were sent by railway parcel, but the cover of the parcel was broken and mangoes were taken away from the basket. The gentleman complained to the Traffic Superintendent, and the following is the reply vouchsafed to the aggrieved gentleman:—"The parcel was booked at half parcel rate and covered by risk note B, and the consignee's claim may be repudiated." There is an express rule which authorizes the booking of fresh fruit and vegetables at half parcel rate. In the face of such a rule we fail to understand how the Traffic Superintendent ruled that it was wrong to send the mangoes at half parcel rate. If it is admitted that the parcel was sent at the half parcel rate in violation of rules, the only thing the Company could do, was to charge the consignee at the full rate. But instead of doing so, to send such a curt reply is surely not befitting the position of a Traffic Superintendent. This order of the Traffic Superintendent, we must confess, would produce a demoralizing effect. It would put a premium upon lawlessness. The Traffic Superintendent might repudiate the claim of the gentleman, but we would like to know what step he has taken to put a stop to the recurrence of such a scandalous practice. He cannot shirk his responsibility by saying that, owing to the contributory negligence, the gentleman has sustained a loss. Surely some body is responsible for the theft perpetrated on the Railway.

PRATINIDHI,
Aug. 16th, 1902.

23. The *Basumatî* [Calcutta] of the 21st August says that whilst the Rail-

A railway complaint.

way Companies allow Europeans to open hotels and refreshment-rooms for European passengers at big

stations, without making any charge whatever, they never concede the same privilege to natives, probably because they think that whilst eating and drinking are a necessity to European passengers they are only a luxury to Native passengers. Recently one Bishun Bal Krishna applied to the Bengal-Nagpur Railway authorities for permission to open a refreshment-room for native passengers at the Kharagpur station. The authorities asked from him a monthly rent of fifty rupees, to be paid in advance, for a site, and refused to grant a lease for more than a year.

BASUMATI,
Aug. 21st, 1902.

24. The *Hitavadi* [Calcutta] of the 22nd August contains the following railway complaints:—

Railway complaints.

(1) There is no waiting-room for female passengers at the Andul station on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, nor are the *palkis* of female passengers allowed to come on the platform. The paucity of trains from this station to Howrah is causing great inconvenience. There are five trains from early dawn to 9 A.M., but after that there is a train at 2 P.M., and after that one at 11 P.M. It would be very convenient for passengers from this station if the Bombay Down Mail and the Panskura Local touched here at 9 A.M. and 9-30 A.M., respectively.

HITAVADI,
Aug. 22nd, 1902.

(2) One Lalit Mohan Shaha complains that he did not receive two baskets of mangoes, which were despatched to his address from Bhagalpur, on the East Indian Railway, on the 24th June last. He made a representation to the District Traffic Superintendent, but was told that the mangoes became rotten on the way, and that the consignee was entitled to no compensation for non-delivery, as the parcels were despatched at half the ordinary rate of freight.

(3) Another correspondent complains that a resident of the Sitakundu station on the Assam-Bengal Railway, who had a basketful of mangoes despatched

to his address from Darbhanga, received the basket only half full and with its lid broken. There were at first 100 mangoes in the basket, but he received only 58. He complained to the Manager of the Assam-Bengal Railway, who told him that it was not his line which was to blame for the breaking of the basket. A representation was then made to the authorities of the Eastern Bengal State Railway, with the result that he was refused compensation on the ground that the parcel had been despatched at half the parcel rate.

BANKURA
DARPARAN,
Aug. 23rd, 1902.

A bad road in the Bankura district.

25. A correspondent of the *Bankura Darpan* [Bankura] of the 23rd August complains of the extremely bad condition of the road which passes through the Kuchiakol village and meets the Bishnupur highroad near the Jaypur outpost in the Bankura district. The road has a large passenger and cart traffic. Boys from distant places attend the Kuchiakol Entrance School, which is situate in the neighbouring village of Dirghaparh, and the bad condition of the road causes great inconvenience and hardship to them. It has not been repaired for the last seven years or more. The road from Kuchiakol to Jaypur will be repaired this year. It is hoped that the above road passing through the Kuchiakol village will be repaired along with it.

(h)—General.

MIHIR-O-SUDHAKAR,
Aug. 22nd, 1902.

A postal complaint.

26. A correspondent of the *Mihir-o-Sudhakar* [Calcutta] of the 22nd August has the following complaints against the postman named Lalji Lala, an up-country man, attached to the Dhupchanchia Post Office in the Bogra district:—

(1) He does not regularly attend his beat. Sometimes he does not visit a village even for a month. Even the letters for the school and the *ganja* market in the neighbourhood of the post office are sometimes distributed on the sixth or seventh day. The fate of letters for distant villages is therefore easily conceivable. Sometimes he goes to the Dhupchanchia and Bagura Bazars, procures signatures in his diary, and delivers one man's letters to another.

(2) The man does not know Bengali—spoken or written. He therefore frequently misdelivers letters. The following instances may be cited:—

(a) The local postal runner once picked up on the road a letter addressed to the Head Master of the Dhupchanchia Model School and delivered it to the latter.

(b) In July last the correspondent himself, whose name is Manik Uddin Ahmad, had posted a medical certificate to the address of the above head master, but the latter never received it.

(c) A railway value-payable receipt, in the name of the third teacher, named Bipin Chandra Pramanik, of the above school, was delivered at the house of the local zamindar. The letter reached Bipin Babu after sometime, so that he had to pay demurrage to the Railway Company for delay in taking delivery of his goods.

(d) Official letters addressed to Dr. Umes Chandra Chaudhuri of the local Charitable Dispensary are delivered at the local Police Office.

(3) He is very quarrelsome, and is frequently seen in a local liquor-shop kept by an up-country man.

(4) In distributing value-payable parcels he demands more than the actual values of the parcels. Once he made a similar demand from one Munshi Maniruddin Miya, an inhabitant of Birkedarthuteparha, but the latter did not pay it.

A Bengali should be employed in the place of the up-country man. The Postal Inspector of the division has been petitioned in the matter. It is hoped that he will remove the grievance complained of.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Aug. 24th, 1902.

A postal complaint.

27. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash* [Dacca] of the 24th August says that the frequent change of the only peon attached to the Churain post office in the Dacca district is causing great inconvenience to the public.

The late peon having lost the keys of the letter-boxes, they were taken to the post office to be opened, but have not since been replaced. This, too, has become a source of great inconvenience to the villagers.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

28. The *Anusandhan* [Calcutta] of the 17th August writes as follows:—

Invitations to native papers to attend the Delhi Darbar. There was once a rumour that the native press would not be invited to the Delhi Darbar.

But Lord Curzon soon gave the lie to this rumour by sending invitations to certain native papers. But compared with the total number of such papers, the number of the selected is, as the *Bangavasi* newspaper says, as a drop in an ocean. The *Bangavasi* has seen in Thacker, Spink and Company's Directory that 673 newspapers are published in various languages in India. Of these 13 English-owned and only 34 native-owned papers have received invitations to attend the Darbar. Is not the *Bangavasi* therefore correct in its remark?

Bengal boasts of a much larger number of native-owned newspapers than any other province in India. But only 11 of them have received invitations. The *Sanjivani* says: "Many of the old newspapers in Bengal have not been invited. We hope that the authorities will make arrangements for inviting them." We cry "ditto" to the *Sanjivani*.

Our contemporary of the *Basumati* says: "The public have been astonished to find the claims of some of the native papers ignored by Government. We fail to understand what principle was followed in selecting newspapers for invitation." An action of the Director-General of the Post Office throws some light on the question raised by the *Basumati*. Sometime ago he asked every newspaper to send him its circulation. He said that he only wanted to know what the circulation of the newspapers was, and that there was no cause for fear. We think that it is only those whose circulation was reported largest have received invitations. Are we very wrong in our surmise? We gladly welcome the rumour that Government is thinking of inviting some more newspapers.

29. The *Murshidabad Hitaishi* [Murshidabad] of the 20th August is sorry

Editors of mufassal papers not invited to the Delhi Darbar. that the editor of no mufassal vernacular paper in Bengal has been invited to the Delhi Darbar.

It is hoped that the authorities will be so gracious as to invite the editors of at least some of the old and respectable mufassal papers like the *Hindu Ranjika* of Rajshahi, the *Dacca Prakash* of Dacca, the *Burdwan Sanjivani* of Burdwan, the *Education Gazette* of Chinsura, &c.

30. The *Jyoti* [Chittagong] of the 21st August has been both surprised

Princes as pages in the Delhi Darbar. and pained to hear the rumour that Lord Curzon will appoint the sons of some Indian princes to act as his pages at the ensuing Delhi Darbar.

Sons of princes to act as the Viceroy's pages will be a thing contrary to the customs, manners and traditions of the people of this country. To compel them to act as such will be to humiliate them in the eyes of their countrymen, who regard their princes as gods on earth. It may be that, from a fear of the Government, the princes will not make any objection now, but the insult will rankle in their minds. It may be their lot to be vanquished by another Sovereign and to become subject to him, but never within the memory of man has a conqueror ventured to increase his glory by making an Indian prince put on the dress of a servant of the conqueror. If the English rulers pay no heed to the customs and traditions of the country in this respect, the Coronation Darbar will not probably be a pleasing sight in the eyes of the native princes.

31. The special correspondent of the *Sanjivani* [Calcutta] of the 21st

The Lieutenant-Governor's words at Murshidabad. August, writing from Murshidabad, says:—

The Lieutenant-Governor has left this place after staying here for three days. What usually takes place in connection with his arrival at, and departure from, any locality occurred in the present instance also. There was nothing new or special about it. Of darbars, addresses, dinners, fireworks and eulogistic references

ANUSANDHAN,
Aug. 17th, 1902.

MURSHIDABAD
HITAISHI,
Aug. 20th, 1902.

JYOTI,
Aug. 21st, 1902.

SANJIVANI,
Aug. 21st, 1902.

there was more than enough. Those that gave grand and costly receptions received warm thanks. His Honour is reported to have said that as he had spent the whole of his life in Bengal, it was not possible for him to forget it. These are, indeed, very sweet words, and words like these have been spoken by more than one Governor in the past. From Assistant Magistrate to Lieutenant-Governor, many have spent the best part of their lives in Bengal, but how many of them can appeal to God and say that they have heartily sympathised with Bengalis in their sorrows? We have ceased to be duped by mere professions. We now want to see them acted up to. It is in Sir John Woodburn's time that the greatest and the most undue indulgence has been shown to the Police and the Magistracy. It is in his time that the Calcutta Municipality and also many municipalities in the mufassal have lost their independence. That is why we have ceased to be taken in by mere professions of sympathy.

BANGAVASI,
Aug. 23rd, 1902.

32. The *Bangavasi* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August says that Government has invited a number of native editors to the

A suggestion in connection with the Delhi Darbar.

Delhi Darbar, probably with the view of utilising their services in the publication, throughout the

country, of reports of the doings of the Darbar. But it will be impossible for the editor of a newspaper to give full reports of the Darbar proceedings in his paper without the aid of some people to assist him in the work. Each editor or his representative should, therefore, be allowed to take with him two men at Government's cost, besides his servant and cook. On the occasion of the last Darbar, each editor was allowed to take one assistant. But as the ensuing Darbar will be an affair almost four times grander than the last one, every editor should be allowed to take two assistants with him. It is hoped Lord Curzon will consider the suggestion.

NAVA YUG,
Aug. 23rd, 1902.

33. The *Navayug* [Calcutta] of the 23rd August says that only twenty-

three native editors have been invited to the Delhi

Invitation of native editors to the Delhi Darbar.

Darbar. But the native editors of Calcutta who have received invitations are not all men of position

or influence; whilst the worthy and learned editor of the *Indian Nation*, Babu Nagendra Nath Ghosh, has been passed over. If Government has looked only to the circulation of the papers, then there is nothing to complain of. But if in making the selections Government has attached any importance to ability and influence, then it has done wrong in overlooking Nagendra Babu's claim to receive an invitation. Government has also passed over all the mufassal papers, though many of them possess more influence than most of the broadsheets published in Calcutta. The East Bengal papers have been completely ignored, though the *Bengal Times* possesses both ability and influence, and the *Dacca Prakash* has become known, in consequence of the ability with which it has been conducted for more than half a century, as the glory of East Bengal. The mufassal papers *Bikas* of Barisal, *Jyoti* of Chittagong, *Pratinidhi* of Comilla, *Medini Bandhav* of Midnapore, *Burdwan Sanjivani* of Burdwan, and *Education Gazette* of Chinsura, *Hindu Ranjika* of Rajshahi, are papers of a better class than many of the Calcutta broadsheets. To fulfil the object which Government ought to have in view in inviting native editors to the Darbar, it is necessary to invite editors from every district.

The *Dacca Prakash*, at least, was invited to the last Darbar.

URIYA PAPERS.

UTKALDIPAKA,
Aug. 16th, 1902.

34. The *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 16th August states that there have been plentiful showers of rain in the Cuttack town

Heavy rain in Orissa.

and in other parts of Orissa, and that the state of

the crops is promising. The Puri correspondent of the same paper states that the rainfall in that town was one day so heavy as to cause the overflow of the *Baradanda* (main street) drains, and, as a consequence, several planks from the shops, situated on its two sides, were washed away. The *Uriya* and *Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 13th August states that, on account of heavy rains in the Khurda subdivision of the Puri district, many men and women were compelled to fast, while several roads and bridges in that subdivision were broken and washed away, and a long breach effected in the railroad near

Sarkantar rendered the railway journey in that part of Orissa most inconvenient and uncomfortable for a certain time.

35. Referring to the Puri Raja's case, the *Utkaldipika* [Cuttack] of the 16th August states that the attempt to effect a compromise between the Puri Raja and the offending officials has failed, and that the public are impatient to know the causes of the unexpected failure. The writer surmises that the desire to remain satisfied with the least reparation and the spirit of self-sacrifice, which, being traits of a noble mind, are so very necessary in the interests of peace, were perhaps wanting either in the one or in the other party.

36. Referring to the use of new stamps, impressed with His Majesty's head, in Calcutta on and from the date of the Coronation, the same paper urges that the mufassal stations should not have been deprived of the same privilege, especially as the sight of their Sovereign's face, as represented on the stamps, would have evoked loyal feelings in the hearts of his mufassal subjects. The sale of the remaining stock of the old stamps, which perhaps stood in the way of the use of the new ones, might have been effected hand-in-hand with that of the new ones.

37. In alluding to an article in the *Pioneer* on the management of the Puri Temple, the same paper states that the daily communication the number of pilgrims visiting the

Railway mismanagement for Puri pilgrimage. Puri Temple is increasing, and will increase in future; that eight pilgrims died last year on account of mismanagement; that in the present year it was found necessary to close the temple doors from a fear of accidents; that this sort of procedure may create general dissatisfaction among the Hindu community, and may end in riots, and that the representatives of the Hindu community on the one hand and those of the Government on the other should meet together in a meeting to discuss and devise means for the better management of the temple and its affairs on future occasions. The writer agrees with the *Pioneer* and advises the Puri Raja, who is the Superintendent of the Puri Temple, to prove himself equal to the occasion by taking necessary action at an early date and thereby averting Government interference, which may, in the end, rob him of his present prestige and power.

38. All the native papers of the week under report are full of accounts of the observance of the Coronation ceremony in different parts of Orissa and its Tributary States on the 9th August last. They seem to indicate that a wave of joy and loyalty has passed over the different communities in Orissa, leaving behind indelible marks of contentment and happiness on their person and mind, sufficient to withstand the erosion of time and temptation for a considerable period.

39. Referring to the settlement of road and public works cesses on revenue-free lands held by tenants under *dhulibhag* in the Cuttack district, the same paper states that the calculation of the annual value of such lands at the rate of eight rupees per acre is quite arbitrary, and

Assessment of cesses on some revenue-free lands in the Cuttack district. is not authorised either by the Commissioner or by the Board of Revenue. The calculation should be at the rate of Rs. 2-14 per acre—a rate adopted in the Settlement Report in showing loss of revenue to Government on account of revenue-free lands,—or at the village rate of the mauza in which the assessable land in question is situated. The writer further argues that there is no necessity for making a distinction between revenue-free lands held *khals* or such lands held in *bhag* management. The rates on which annual values of lands of both descriptions are to be based should be on a par. The writer regrets that the Settlement Officer is tempted to look more towards the income of the Road Cess Department than towards the ends of justice, and requests the District Board and the Divisional Commissioner to revise his proceedings and thereby minimise the effects of his imperfect or defective policy.

40. The same paper regrets that the Puri Police do not authorise the dragging of the cars of the gods in that town twice a day, and that this has resulted in the absence of God Jagannath and other gods from the temple

UTKALDIPIKA,
Aug. 16th, 1902.

UTKALDIPIKA.

UTKALDIPIKA.

ALL THE NATIVE PAPERS.

ALL THE NATIVE PAPERS.

ALL THE NATIVE PAPERS.

for a considerable period. This is looked upon as unique and unprecedented in the history of the temple, and is calculated to interfere with its time-honoured ceremonies, thus scattering the seeds of discontent and dissatisfaction in all ranks and giving currency to ill-conceived omens and auguries among the ignorant and superstitions.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD,
Aug. 13th, 1902.

URIYA AND
NAVASAMVAD.

SAMVAD VAHIKA,
Aug. 14th, 1902.

SAMVAD VAHIKA.

SILCHAR,
Aug. 16th, 1902.

SILCHAR.

11. The *Uriya and Navasamvad* [Balasore] of the 13th August is sorry to find that the danger from mad jackals in the Balasore town is very great, and that the Balasore Municipality is indifferent in the matter. The writer, however, admits that two rewards, valued at Rs. 10 each, have already been granted to two men, who produced two dead jackals, reported to have been mad.

12. Referring to the report of the Universities Commission, the same paper regrets that the recommendations of the Commission, if adopted, will result in the abolition of some schools and colleges and in the raising of fees in others. There will also be ample room for Government interference, thus weakening the vigour of independent management. The middle-classes, who are generally poor, will not be able to reap the full benefit of high education. The public never expected a report whose tendency is to check the spread of high education among the Indians.

13. Referring to the invitation of the editors of English newspapers in India to the ensuing Darbar at Delhi by the Foreign Secretary, the *Samvad Vahika* [Balasore] of the 14th August suspects that the Indian editors will not be favoured with invitation cards.

14. Referring to the Coronation Darbar which is to be held at Delhi a few months after, the same paper urges that Lord Curzon should confer a lasting benefit on India by abolishing the salt tax altogether, which, being a tax on an important article of food, touches the pocket of the poor and needy. The association of the memory of the Darbar with the remission of this tax will thus be permanent in the mind of the Indians and will be recorded in the pages of history in brilliant colours.

ASSAM PAPERS.

45. The *Silchar* [Silchar] of the 16th August says that in the Cachar district *gurus* often bribe guards at the primary examinations, in order that they may help their students in the examination hall. The money is realised from the guardians of the students.

Where a guardian is too poor to pay, the *guru* does not become a loser, because he receives remuneration from Government for passed students. Most probably the Deputy Inspector, Bipin Babu, does not know all this, else he would not have given medals and watches as rewards to *gurus* and their students. Such rewards only encourage this corruption. Public servants should be appointed guards at primary examinations.

46. The same paper supports the report of the Universities Commission in its main features, viz., the enhancing of college fees and the raising of the minimum pass marks in Literature in the Entrance examination. It says that the country is full of men who have passed one or more University examinations. The vast majority of them pass miserable lives on paltry salaries in public or private service. Their knowledge of English is generally very poor. It is rumoured that once an M. A. Deputy Magistrate of Krishnagar wrote such bad English that the District Judge ordered him to write his judgments in Bengali. Under existing circumstances, therefore, the recommendations of the Commission have not been very bad.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 30th August, 1902.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,
Bengali Translator.